

Message Text

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13

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEA-10 SS-14 NSC-10 EB-11 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-12 IO-12 SCA-01 RSR-01 /137 W

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R 142145 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9073

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PFOR VE CU XR OAS

SUBJECT: U. S. POLICY TOWARD CUBA

REF: STATE 043380

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL I SOUGHT APPOINTMENT WITH FONMIN CALVANI. IN RESPONSE, IN VIEW OF IMMINENT DEPARTURE FOR PANAMA, HE REQUESTED THAT I MEET INSTEAD WITH DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL FOREIGN POLICY PEREZ CHIRIBOGA. LATTER RECEIVED ME MARCH 13.
2. I HANDED PEREZ CHIRIBOGA DIPLOMATIC NOTE EMBODYING TEXT OF SECRETARY' S MESSAGE TO FONMIN AS CONTAINED REFTEL. I ALSO PRESENTED TO HIM THE VARIOUS POINTSAND VIEWS ADDITIONALLY SET FORTH IN REFTEL.
3. PEREZ CHIRIBOGA HEARD ME OUT WITHOUT COMMENT AND READ SECRETARY' S MESSAGE WITH EVIDENT INTEREST. HE PROMISED TO TRANSMIT IT PROMPTLY TO FONMIN CALVANI BUT SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE CERTAIN COMMENTS WHICH HE CONSIDERED PERTINENT.
4. DR PEREZ CHIRIBOGA SAID THAT HE AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD WATCHED WITH GREAT INTEREST THE STYLE OF PERSONAL DIPLOMACY DEVELOPED BY PRESIDENT NIXON OVER

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PAST YEAR OR MORE. THEY CONSIDER THAT IT HAS BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN EASING WORLD TENSIONS ON MAJOR FRONTS. AT THE SAME TIME, IT HAS MADE THEM DISTINCTLY UNEASY LEST DR KISSINGER APPEAR UNANNOUNCED AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT IN HAVANA, EFFECT A THOROUGH GOING RAPPROACHMENT BETWEEN THE US AND CUBA, AND LEAVE VENEZUELA AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS OUT ON A VERY UNCOMFORTABLE LIMB OF ADHERENCE TO A POLICY SUDDENLY OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS AND RENDERED UNTENABLE.

5. PEREZ CHIRIBOGA SAID THAT VENEZUELA CONTINUES TO SHARE OUR FEELING THAT CUBAN PROBLEM IS ONE FOR HANDLING WITHIN CONTEXT OF OAS. AT THE SAME TIME IT PERCEIVES AND SENSES THAT PROCESS OF EROSION IS UNDERWAY WITH RESPECT TO POLICY OF HEMISPHERIC SANCTIONS AND THAT IT IS BETTER AND PREFERABLE TO RECOGNIZE THIS PROBLEM AND MEET IT HEAD ON THAN TO SEE POLICY AND POSITION OF OAS PROGRESSIVELY NIBBLED AWAY.

6. DR PEREZ CHIRIBOGA SAID THAT VENEZUELA HAS AS OF NOW NO REPEAT NO DRAFT RESOLUTION ON CUBA TO PRESENT TO OAS MEETING IN APRIL. HE ADDED THAT HE COULD NOT CATEGORICALLY RULE OUT DEVELOPMENT OF SOME VENEZUELAN DRAFT RESOLUTION BY THEN BUT SAID HE PERSONALLY DOUBTED THAT THIS WOULD OCCUR. AT THE SAME TIME, AND PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF VENEZUELAN PROPOSAL FOR REVIEW OF OAS ROLE IN CHANGING MODERN WORLD, HE FORESAW DISTINCT POSSIBILITY THAT FONMIN CALVANI AS PRESIDING OFFICER AT OAS MEETING MIGHT FIND IT APPROPRIATE OR EVEN NECESSARY TO REFER TO CUBAN SITUATION AS PART OF OAS PROBLEM, WHICH PROBLEM WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY COME UP AT MEETING. SHOULD THIS OCCUR, IT WOULD (AS OF NOW AT LEAST) REPRESENT NOT A SPECIFIC VENEZUELAN MOVE OR PROPOSAL BUT RATHER THE VENEZUELAN VIEW THAT IT IS ADVISABLE TO RECOGNIZE CUBAN PROBLEM, TO THINK RATIONALLY ABOUT IT, AND TO MOVE CONSCIOUSLY TOWARD THE SHAPE OF A RATIONAL FUTURE RATHER THAN TO ALLOW THE OAS AND ITS MEMBER NATIONS TO BE CARRIED ALONG UNWITTINGLY BY RUSH OF EVENTS.

7. IN CLOSING CONVERSATION, PEREZ CHIRIBOGA THANKED ME FOR CATEGORIC ASSURANCE CONTAINED IN SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO FONMIN, SAID THAT IT GOES TO THE HEART OF VENEZUELAN UNEASINESS ON THE SUBJECT, AND REITERATED HIS ASSURANCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY BRING IT TO THE ATTENTION OF

FONMIN CALVANI.
DEVINE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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